

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION

21 March 2003

Refer to: P/N # 2002-1N-419-W

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

MR. ROBERT A. PRICE
CONFEDERATE MINING COMPANY
340 WEST CHURCH STREET
COWPENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29330

for a permit to place fill material in waters of the United States in a

TRIBUTARY OF LONG CANE CREEK

near the intersection of SC Route 28 and Candy Branch Road in Abbeville County, South Carolina
(Latitude – 34.07394°, Longitude – 82.34607°).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, 21 APRIL 2003

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The project area consists of a 7.5-acre mining site. The applicant plans to excavate and process 33,000 cubic yards of material from a 2.5-acre upland area within the project site. The applicant plans to construct a temporary earthen embankment in waters of the United States to impound water that will be used for the upland processing of excavated minerals. Water that is removed from the stream will be stored in a process water pond that will be constructed in uplands. No chemicals will be used in the processing operation, and all process water will be recycled to limit the amount of water that is withdrawn from the existing stream.

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N # 2002-1N-419-W

21 March 2003

The temporary earthen embankment will be constructed using sand bags. The embankment will be 5 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 4 feet tall, and will impound approximately 70 linear feet of stream. Once the water level within the impoundment reaches full pool, the water will be allowed to spill over the embankment and continue flowing within the existing stream channel. During periods of mining inactivity greater than 30 days, the embankment and water control structure will be removed to allow for the normal flow of water.

According to the applicant, all land disturbance will be more than 50-feet from the edge of the tributary, and sediment basins will be constructed onsite to prevent a release of sediment into waters of the United States. The purpose of the proposed work is to obtain process water to operate a commercial mining operation.

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107.**

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certification is received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review. Persons wishing to comment or object to Water Quality Certification must submit all comments in writing to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at the above address within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 0.01 acres of waters of the United States upstream of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

21 March 2003

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

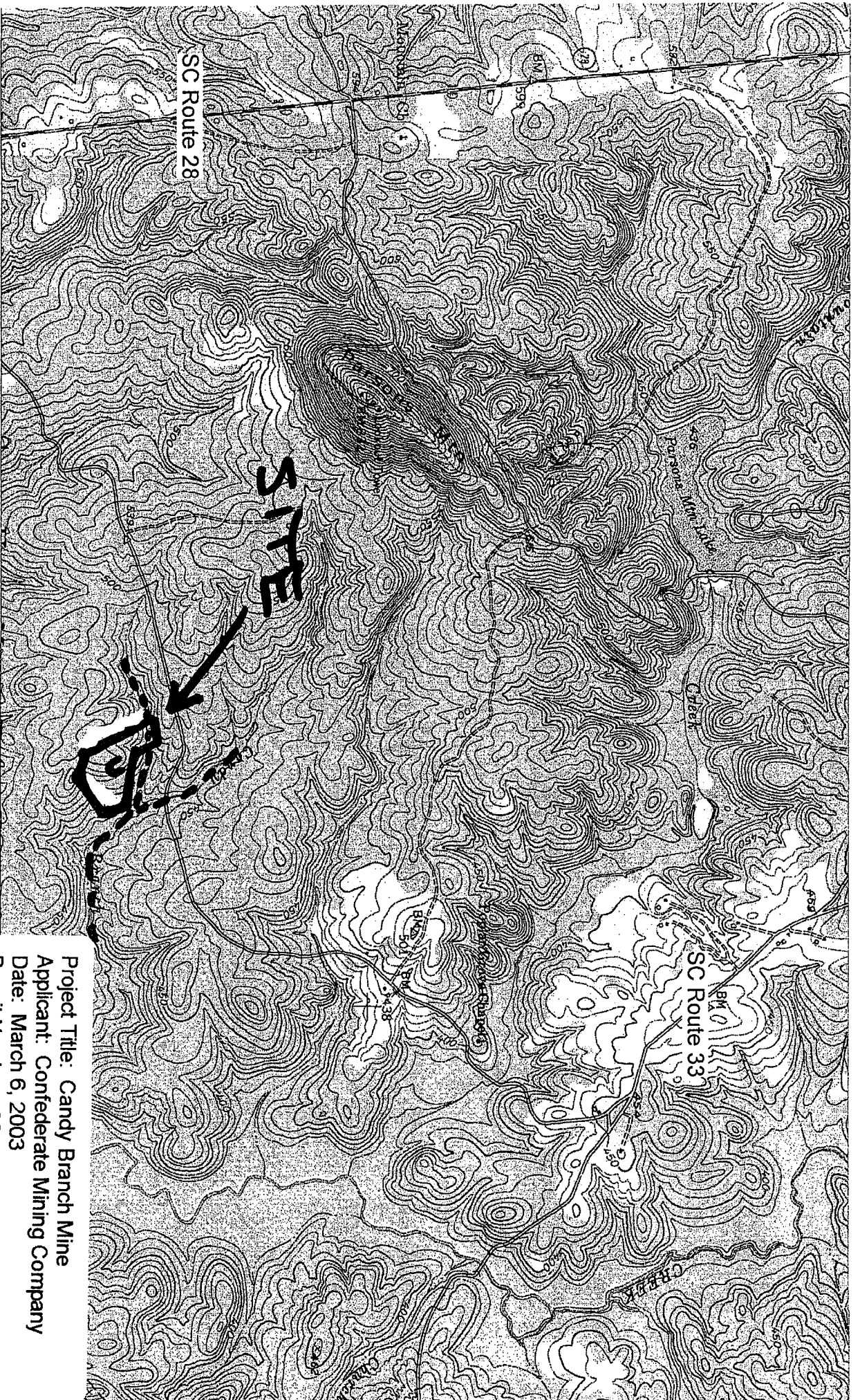
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact me at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



Nathaniel I. Ball
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

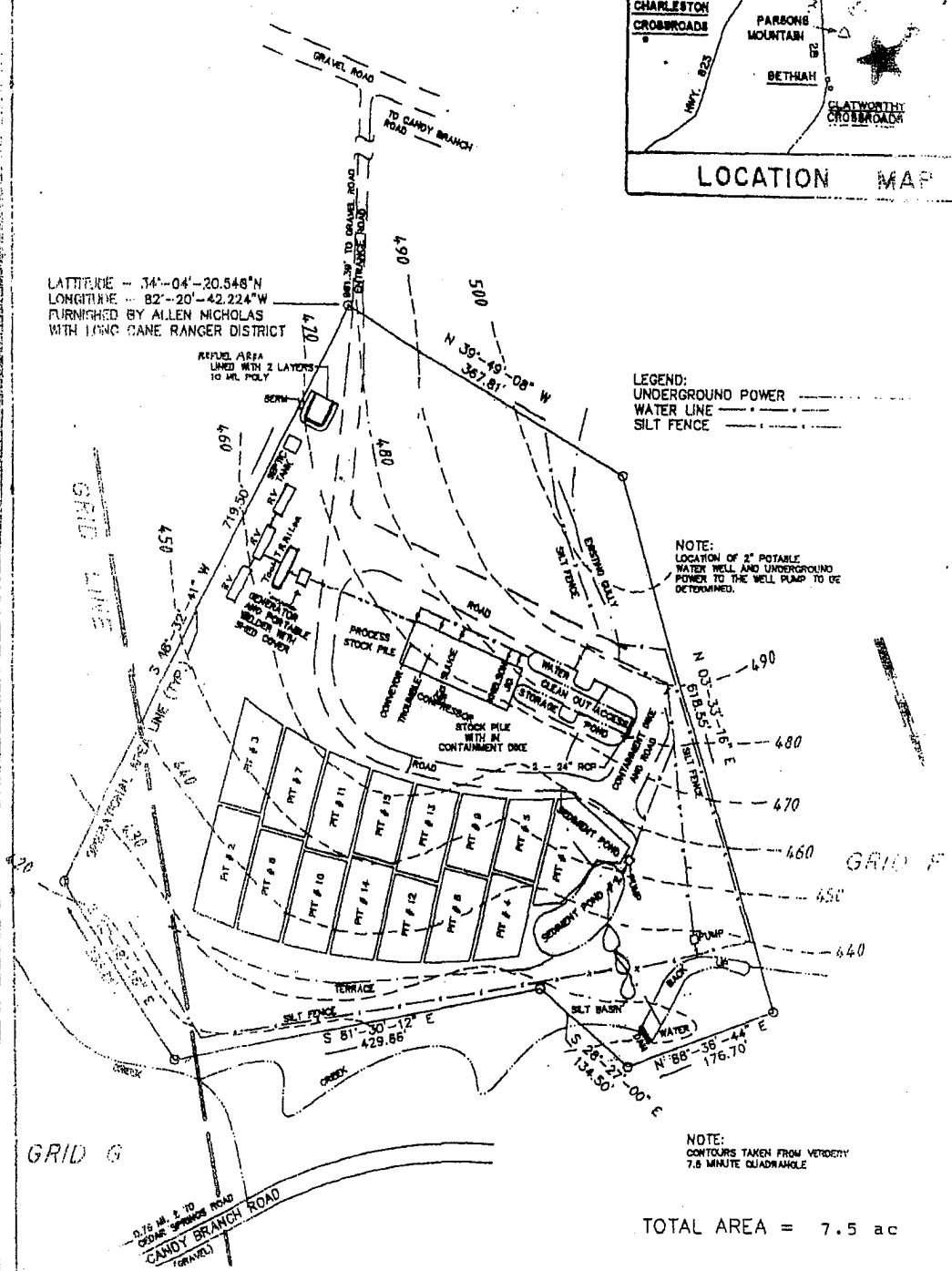
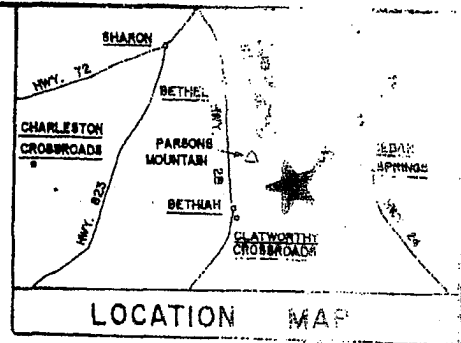


Mr. Robert A. Price
Confederate Mining Company
Candy Branch Project
Abbeville County South Carolina

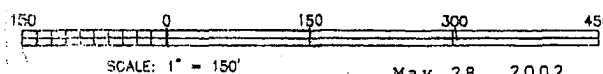
u Approximate location Uplands
--- Approximate location Waters of the U
Date Inspected: November 2003

Project Title: Candy Branch Mine
Applicant: Confederate Mining Company
Date: March 6, 2003
Permit Number: 2002-1N-419-W
Sheet: 2 of 5

FIGURE 4



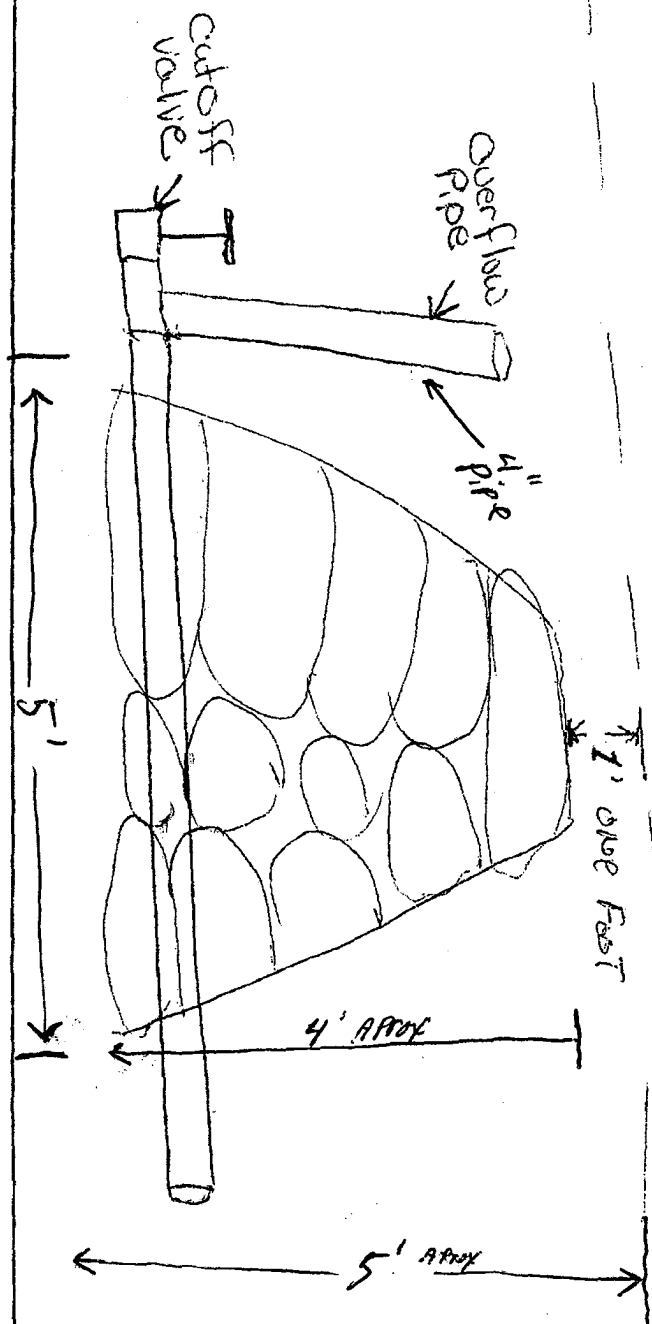
Project Title: Candy Branch Mine
 Applicant: Confederate Mining Company
 Date: March 6, 2003
 Permit Number: 2002-1N-419-W
 Sheet: 3 of 5



May 28, 2002

Side View

Creek bed Height



Project Title:

CANDY BRANCH PROJECT

Project Title: Candy Branch Mine
 Applicant: Confederate Mining Company
 Date: March 6, 2003
 Permit Number: 2002-1N-419-W
 Sheet: 4 of 5

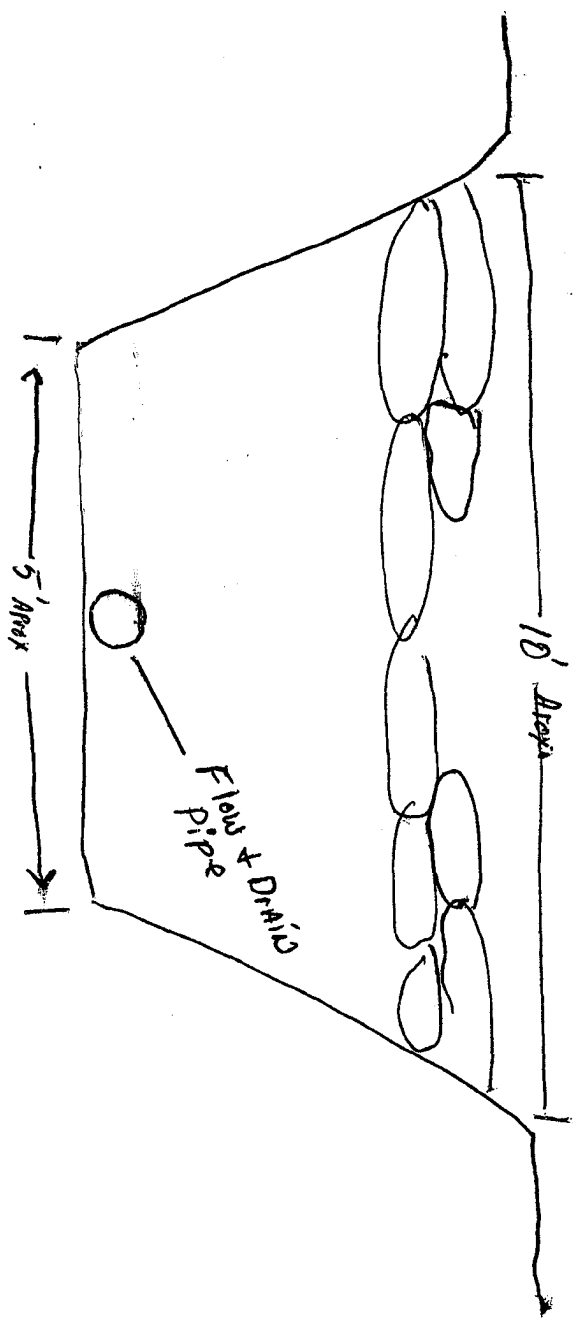
Revisio

Date

Application #:

Sheet of

Front View



Project Title:

Candy Branch Project

Project Title: Candy Branch Mine

Applicant: Confederate Mining Company

Date: March 6, 2003

Permit Number: 2002-1N-419-W

Sheet: 5 of 5

Revisi
Date

Application #:

Sheet of